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Agca repeats 'Jesus' antics, disrupts trial again

ROME (AP) - Mehmet Ali Agca, the state's star witness in the trial about an alleged plot to kill the pope, disrupted the proceedings for the second day yesterday, rambling about being Jesus Christ and then refusing to answer questions.

But he dropped several hints that he might be willing to testify later, and prosecutor Antonio Marini said he was unconcerned by the 27-year-old Turk's erratic

"When he [Agca] begins to speak about facts, he is very believable," Mr. Marini told reporters after the judge removed Agca from the witness stand.

Italian television broadcast yesterday Pope John Paul II's remarks on the trial to a Bulgarian government delegation he received at the Vatican on Friday. The pope said he "prays every day for a good, positive solution of this episode so that it does not weigh heavily on the name of a Slavic people.'

The pope's comment was carried by the state-run RAI television network, which showed a film of the pope receiving the Bulgarians, who came to Rome for celebrations marking the feast day of St. Cyril, the creator of the Cyrillic script.

Agca was called to testify against three Bulgarians and four Turks, charged with conspiracy in the May 13,

1981, shooting of Pope John Paul II. All seven defendants face life sentences.

Agca is serving a life sentence for the May 13, 1981, shooting of the pope in St. Peter's Square, but has repudiated his original story that he acted alone. His testimony at preliminary hearings led to the seven indictments, plus a new charge against himself of illegally importing the pistol into Italy that he used to shoot the pope.

Prosecutors in his first trial four years ago did not know where the gun came from.

Yesterday, the second day of the trial, Agca asked Judge Severino Santiapichi to be allowed to make a statement, and repeated his Monday claims that he was Jesus Christ and was not crazy.

He added: "In this generation the days are counted. No one - not even the Americans or the Soviets -- can save us from this. ... There will be total destruction."

He called on the Vatican to "reveal the

third mystery of the blessed Virgin of

The Vatican has refused to disclose the so-called third secret of Fatima, which some say is a prophecy of another global war or the end of the world.

It is one of three secrets said to have been delivered to three Portuguese shepherd children when they reportedly saw six apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 1917 in the Portuguese town of Fatima.

The first secret described a vision of Hell, warned of World War II and said the Soviet Union would threaten "wars and persecution of the church," while the second warned of difficulties for the pope without "the consecration of Russia," according to church authorities.

The third secret, transmitted to the Vatican by one of the three who saw the reported apparitions, was not to be disclosed before 1960. That year passed without the secret being disclosed, on the decision of Pope John XXIII.

Mr. Santiapiachi tried to reason with

Agca and make him respond to his questions.

"I cannot respond. I want to continue tomorrow. Today I am awaiting a reply from the Vatican. If the Vatican contradicts me I cannot do anything. I cannot continue," he said in slow clear Italian.

The judge then called a recess to give Agca time to decide if he would testify. After the recess, Agea again refused to answer the judge's questions and was taken off the witness stand.

When Mr. Santiapichi asked Agca where he got the Browning 9mm he used in the shooting, Agca replied, "I am sorry. I can't answer today. This is not a refusal."

The prosecution is apparently convinced that Agca has both his lucid and erratic moments. Before the opening day's session was adjourned because of problems with the sound system, Agca had, in fact, begun answering questions about the history of the pistol.

Mr. Marini said the outbursts by the state's star witness would have no effect on his case because they were "merely a show for journalists."

Agca was expected to testify for several more days in the courthouse, located in a gymnasium in Rome's 1960 Olympic complex and guarded by about 500 policemen.